

Indiana State Central Hospital for the Insane,
Pathological Department Building
3000 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis
Marion County
Indiana

HABS No. IND-69

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IND-69

INDIANA STATE CENTRAL HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE
PATHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT BUILDING

Location: 3000 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Marion County,
Indiana.

Present Owner: State of Indiana.

Present Use: Medical Museum.

Statement of Significance: This building was Indiana's first medical center, and houses the state's oldest medical classrooms and amphitheater. It is representative of the best of the educational structures built and operated at state expense at the end of the nineteenth century and was recognized from the outset as an excellent example of laboratory design, development and equipment.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1895 is the date carved in a stone plaque on the front of the building.
2. Architect: Adolph Scherrer.
3. Original and subsequent owners: 160 acres of land for the hospital were purchased by the State of Indiana from Nathaniel Bolton for \$5300 in the fall of 1845 (Sutherland and McEvoy's Indianapolis City Directory and Business Mirror for 1860-61, Indianapolis, 1860 p. 277).
4. Builder: John A. Schumacher Company.
5. Original plan and construction: The hospital grounds lie three miles west of the center of Indianapolis on what was once the National Road (Sutherland and McEvoy's Indianapolis, 1860, p. 277). The plaque on the front of the building contains the following information: "Pathological Department, Board of Control, J. L. Carson, Pres't., John Osterman, Treas., D. H. Davis, Sec'y., G. F. Edenharter, M. D. Sup't. 1895."

The Indianapolis Journal, May 15, 1904, contains an article concerning the entire hospital. This article includes the

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following information about the Pathological Department. The Pathology Building is two stories high, has a stone foundation, and is constructed of stone and brick. Medical students visit the building twice a week and see "subjects" operated on for mental disease, with prominent doctors of the city lecturing over these subjects. The first floor contains a physicians reception room; reception and viewing rooms where relatives may view the remains of a dead patient, an anatomical (dissecting) room, furnace room, a mortuary, an analytical laboratory, chemical laboratory, anatomical and pathological museum, a lavatory and toilet, and two-story amphitheater seating 160 persons. The second floor contains the pathologist's private study and research rooms, record room, library, bacteriological and microscopical laboratories, photographing room with a dark room, a large room for charts, diagrams, and models, and a toilet.

The Indianapolis Journal of August 9, 1903 contains an article which mentions that a rapid expansion in the hospital began in 1884 which continued for sometime thereafter. The Pathological Department Building was among thirty-one buildings constructed during this expansive period.

6. Alterations and additions: The first floor has two one-story additions on the rear of the building, one of which is for storage and the other a public toilet facility (this contains working plumbing fixtures of the early 1900's).

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The land on which the Pathological Department Building stands is known as Mt. Jackson. The land was so designated by George Smith, the original owner. Smith was a newspaper publisher from Corydon, Indiana, who walked to Indianapolis when the City was first plotted and land made available. Smith published the first Indianapolis newspaper - The Indianapolis Gazette. Smith published his newspaper within the early city limits, but lived on his farm, Mt. Jackson, which was located at that time three miles west of the city limits. Mt. Jackson was named in honor of General Andrew Jackson. Smith was assisted in his newspaper work by his stepson, Nathaniel Bolton.

Bolton and his wife, Sarah Barrett Bolton inherited Mt. Jackson. They enlarged Smith's cabin and converted it into an inn to take advantage of the traffic along the National Road which had been built in front of their farm. Sarah Bolton began writing poetry

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while living here and was soon recognized as Indiana's best known poet and was known as the "Pioneer Poet Laureate."

The Bolton's sold their farm to the State of Indiana in 1845 to be used for the State's first insane asylum. The agent for the sale was Dr. John Evans, a young Attica physician who believed that the State should logically be responsible for the care and treatment of the blind, the deaf, and the insane. Evans petitioned the State legislature during the 1840's and became actively engaged in politics. His vigorous efforts resulted in the election of Governor Whitcomb in 1844. Whitcomb made Evans a commissioner to develop the State Hospital. Evans made a trip East, at his own expense, to study existing hospitals for the insane and their requirements. He returned to Indianapolis and selected the Bolton farm as being the most ideal location for the development of the proposed State Hospital.

The Pathological Department Building was erected at the end of a quarter century distinguished by outstanding discoveries of medical science and concurrently, the elevation of the discipline of medical education.

During the late nineteenth century, medical research on disease was conducted principally with the microscope. The Pathological Building was planned to provide the most efficient environment for studying disease. In order to do this, it was necessary to have access to the diseased tissue, generally from the morgue or surgery, and to process the tissue.

Dr. Walter Bruetsch prepared and presented a unique exhibit for the Anatomical and Pathological Museum of the Pathological Department Building, in which he demonstrated the malarial treatment of central nervous system syphilis. Prior to the discovery of antibiotics, syphilis was a major cause for commitment to mental hospitals. Dr. Julius Wagner von Jauregg discovered during World War I that a co-infection with malaria would often cure central nervous system syphilis. Dr. Walter Bruetsch, a student of von Jauregg, introduced this treatment to America in the early 1920's from the Pathological Department Building. Dr. Bruetsch's fever charts, as well as his excellent photomicrographic enlargements, provide graphic demonstration of the clinical and microscopical effectiveness of this early method of treatment.

Prior to the Civil War medical education was largely conducted under an apprenticeship system. Following the close of the Civil War to the turn of the twentieth century medical education in the

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Ohio Valley evolved to essentially what it is today. Nineteenth century medical schools differed from their twentieth century counterparts by their proprietary system. During this transitional period the various medical laboratory sciences developed. Where the early medical school experience was entirely didactic and consisted of "sitting in" on one or two series of lectures, the classroom alone was no longer sufficient. Clinical and laboratory facilities became necessary.

The Pathological Department Building of the Indiana State Central Hospital for the Insane incorporated the best of all known features in its design and equipment to facilitate the scientific study of disease and the dissemination of medical information. Although not a medical school per se, the building was constructed to be a "medical center" to be used by all the local proprietary schools (of which two were then in existence), and by any physician or student in the state, at no cost, who wanted to avail himself of the facility. The building was used continuously from 1895 to 1955 for medical education purposes during which time there was no remodeling, no change in the interior decor, and most of the original equipment was maintained.

The Pathological Department Building was used by the Medical College of Indiana, and by the Central College of Physicians and Surgeons until these two combined with the Fort Wayne Medical College to form the Indiana Medical College, Department of Medicine, Purdue University. Purdue University then shared the building with the new State Medical College which was created in 1903. All of these schools combined in 1908 to form the Indiana University School of Medicine. Indiana University used the Pathological Department Building until 1955. Since the early 1970's the building has been in the process of restoration and produces the Indiana Medical History Quarterly.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Copy of Original Floor Plan of the building drawn by Architect Adolph Scherrer.

Conversation with Dr. Charles Bonsett, February 2, 1977.

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b. Secondary and published sources:

Indiana Central State Hospital Annual Reports, 1895-1955,
inclusive.

Indianapolis Journal, August 9, 1903, part 3, page 1, col-
umn 1.

Indianapolis Journal, May 15, 1904, part 3, page 1, column 3.

National Register Nomination Form, prepared by Charles A.
Bonsett, M. D., Indiana Medical History Foundation, Inc.
submitted August 3, 1970.

Sutherland and McEvoy's Indianapolis City Directory and
Business Mirror for 1860-61, Indianapolis, 1860.

2. Likely sources not yet investigated:

a. State archives.

b. Recorded deeds.

Prepared by Wesley I. Shank
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
December 1971

Candace Reed
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
January 1977

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This stone and brick building was built in 1895 as a center for study and research by the Pathological Department of the Indiana State Central Hospital for the Insane. It is part of the State's oldest medical center and was one of the most advanced for its time.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

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B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 68' (seven-bay front) x 72'.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: Red brick with stone detailing.
4. Structural system, framing: Brick load-bearing walls.
5. Porches, stoops: Simple three-step stoops lead into the building.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The east front of the building has three doorways. At the southeast corner there is a simple trabeated doorway with a fixed transom over the door. The upper two-thirds of the door is composed of glass and the lower one-third is composed of wood. The east facade has a splayed projecting bay. At each of the two splayed walls a door enters into the bay. Each of these doorways is trabeated and has a fixed transom. The upper two-thirds of each door is glass and the lower one-third is paneled wood.
 - b. Windows: All windows, whether single or paired, are trabeated with stone lintels. Windows are one over one with double hung sash. On the east facade there is one pair of windows located in the projecting bay. All the other windows are single and regularly spaced. Above the second floor paired windows there is a bisected semi-circular window. A simple stone panel with recessed circular center is located on each of the splayed walls above the second floor windows.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Irregular hipped roof with skylights.
 - b. Cornice: Corbeled brick cornice.

C. Description of the Interior: With the exception of two one-story additions on the rear (west) of the building, the building's present physical appearance is that of the original structure. The

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interior of the building in plan, decoration, and equipment has been little altered.

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: There are twelve rooms organized in an L-shaped plan. There are five rooms which face east, the viewing room, relatives reception room, vestibule, physicians reception room, and the chemical laboratory. Immediately behind the chemical laboratory is the analytical laboratory; the anatomical and pathological museums are behind the physicians reception room and vestibule; the mortuary is behind the viewing room and relatives reception room. The amphitheater is adjacent to both the morgue and the museum room. One hundred sixty chairs are arranged in concentric tiers above a central podium. This room could be used for gross anatomical and pathological demonstrations by replacing the podium with the dissecting table. A block and tackle suspended from the ceiling was used for this purpose. Adjacent to the amphitheater, at the northwestern corner, are the furnace room and anatomical room. A lavatory and toilet separate the anatomical room and the analytical laboratory.
 - b. Second floor: The pathologist's private room, library, and microscopical laboratory face east. A hallway runs north and south and connects all the front rooms with the rooms immediately behind them. These are the toilet, record room, photographing and dark room, a storage room for charts, diagrams, and models, and bacteriological laboratory. Behind the bacteriological laboratory in the northwest corner of the building is the pathologist's private research room. This room leads directly into the second floor of the amphitheater, access to the amphitheater is also possible through the bacteriological laboratory and the storage room.
2. Stairway: An open-well three-run stairway rises from the vestibule on the first floor and opens onto the hall between the library and the pathologist's private room.
 3. Hardware: Working plumbing fixtures of the 1900's are still in use in the public toilet built as a one-story addition for use in conjunction with the amphitheater.

The equipment in the mortuary is representative of the turn of the century.

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D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Indiana State Central Hospital is located west of the White River and north of Tibbs Avenue and Washington Street.
2. Historic landscape design: The land on which the Pathological Department Building stands is known as Mt. Jackson. This was farm land which was cultivated at the time Indianapolis was first platted and land was made available to settlers. The farm was originally three miles west of the city limits. This farm was selected as being the most ideal location for the development of the proposed state hospital.
3. Related structures: Thirty-one buildings were erected during the last quarter of the nineteenth century on the tract of land that was formerly Bolton Farm. More buildings have been added since the turn of the century.

Prepared by Candace Reed
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
February 1977

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of a cooperatively financed project in 1970 between the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Historic American Buildings Survey.

The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Dr. Charles A. Bonsett submitted a Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory and Professor Wesley I. Shank of Iowa State University prepared the historical data. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. H. Roll McLaughlin, FAIA, State Preservation Coordinator, President of the Historic Landmarks Foundation, and member of the HABS Advisory Board, served as a consultant throughout the project. This report was edited and expanded for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.